

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application;

Claims 1 and 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A switching power supply circuit comprising:

rectifying and smoothing means including a plurality of low-frequency rectifying devices for rectifying an alternating input voltage in each positive/negative period of the alternating input voltage and a smoothing capacitor for smoothing the voltage rectified by the low-frequency rectifying devices;

switching means for being supplied with the rectified and smoothed voltage generated by said rectifying and smoothing means and performing switching operation, said switching means being formed with two switching devices coupled by half-bridge coupling;

switching-driving means for switching-driving said two switching devices such that said two switching devices are turned on/off alternately;

an isolated converter transformer having a core in which a gap is formed by winding, and a primary winding and a secondary winding wound around the core, said primary winding

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supplied with a switching output obtained by the switching operation of said switching means and a said secondary winding in which an alternating voltage as the switching output obtained in the primary winding is induced, ~~and forming a gap of a predetermined length so as to obtain~~ being in a state of loose coupling with ~~a required coupling coefficient~~;

a primary side series resonant circuit for being supplied with the switching output from said switching means and converting operation of said switching means into a current resonant type operation, said primary side series resonant circuit being formed by at least a leakage inductance component of said primary winding and a capacitance of a primary side series resonant capacitor connected in series with said primary winding;

direct-current output voltage generating means configured to generate a secondary side direct-current output voltage by receiving the alternating voltage obtained in said secondary winding and performing a rectifying operation;

constant-voltage control means configured to perform constant-voltage control on said secondary side direct-current output voltage by varying switching frequency of said switching means by controlling said switching-driving means according to level of said secondary side direct-current output voltage;

a power factor improving transformer having a core in

which a gap of a predetermined length is formed by winding,
and a power factor improving primary winding and a power
factor improving secondary winding wound around the core, said
power factor improving winding inserted in series with said
primary side series resonant circuit and a said power factor
improving secondary winding connected in parallel with a
~~predetermined~~ rectifying current path formed as said
rectifying and smoothing means being in a state of loose
coupling; and

a plurality of high-frequency rectifying devices
connected in series with said power factor improving secondary
winding, for performing switching operation in each
positive/negative period of the alternating voltage induced in
the power factor improving secondary winding by said power
factor improving primary winding, said alternating voltage
having a high frequency as compared with frequency of said
alternating input voltage.

Claim 4. (Original) A switching power supply circuit as
claimed in claim 3, wherein,

said rectifying and smoothing means is voltage doubler
rectifying and smoothing means,

including two smoothing capacitors, that is, a
smoothing capacitor for smoothing the voltage obtained by

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rectifying said alternating input voltage by the rectifying device in a positive period of said alternating input voltage, and a smoothing capacitor for smoothing the voltage obtained by rectifying said alternating input voltage by the rectifying device in a negative period of said alternating input voltage, and

formed such that a voltage obtained by accumulating voltages across said two smoothing capacitors is said rectified and smoothed voltage.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A switching power supply circuit comprising:

rectifying and smoothing means including a plurality of rectifying devices for rectifying an alternating input voltage in each positive/negative period of the alternating input voltage and a smoothing capacitor for smoothing the voltage rectified by the rectifying devices;

switching means for being supplied with the rectified and smoothed voltage generated by said rectifying and smoothing means and performing switching operation, said switching means being formed with two switching devices coupled by half-bridge coupling;

switching-driving means for switching-driving said two switching devices such that said two switching devices are turned on/off alternately;

an isolated converter transformer having a core in
which a gap of a predetermined length is formed by winding,
and a primary winding and a secondary winding wound around the
core, said primary winding supplied with a switching output
obtained by the switching operation of said switching means
and a said secondary winding in which an alternating voltage
as corresponding to the switching output obtained in the
primary winding is induced, ~~and forming a gap of a~~
~~predetermined length so as to obtain being in~~ a state of loose
coupling ~~with a required coupling coefficient;~~

a primary side series resonant circuit for being
supplied with the switching output from said switching means
and converting operation of said switching means into a
current resonant type operation, said primary side series
resonant circuit being formed by at least a leakage inductance
component of said primary winding and a capacitance of a
primary side series resonant capacitor connected in series
with said primary winding;

direct-current output voltage generating means
configured to generate a secondary side direct-current output
voltage by receiving the alternating voltage obtained in said
secondary winding and performing a rectifying operation;

constant-voltage control means configured to perform
constant-voltage control on said secondary side direct-current
output voltage by varying switching frequency of said

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switching means by controlling said switching-driving means according to level of said secondary side direct-current output voltage; and

a power factor improving transformer having a core in which a gap of predetermined length is formed by winding, and a power factor improving primary winding and a power factor improving secondary winding wound around the core, said power factor improving primary winding inserted in series with said primary side series resonant circuit and a said power factor improving secondary winding connected in parallel with a ~~predetermined~~ rectifying current path formed as said rectifying and smoothing means being in a state of loose coupling;

wherein the rectifying devices of said rectifying and smoothing means perform switching operation on a basis of an alternating voltage induced in said power factor improving secondary winding by said power factor improving primary winding.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A switching power supply circuit as claimed in one of claims 1, 3, and 5, wherein,

~~a state of loose coupling at a required coupling coefficient is obtained between~~ to deal with an increase in an equivalent leakage inductance component when said isolated converter transformer is viewed from a primary side due to

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setting of said power factor improving primary winding and
said power factor improving secondary winding, ~~and~~

~~to obtain a coupling coefficient of a required value
or higher in said isolated converter transformer so as to
correspond to a required coupling coefficient obtained as a
coupling coefficient of said switching power supply circuit as
a whole in a state of loose coupling,~~ the gap of said isolated
converter transformer is set to a length within a
predetermined value.

Claim 7. (Original) A switching power supply circuit
as claimed in one of claims 1, 3, and 5, further comprising a
primary side partial voltage resonant circuit formed by at
least including a capacitance of a partial voltage resonant
capacitor connected in parallel with at least one of said two
switching devices and the leakage inductance component of said
primary winding, said primary side partial voltage resonant
circuit performing a voltage resonant operation only in
accordance with timing of turning on or turning off of each
said switching device.

Claim 8. (Original) A switching power supply circuit
as claimed in claim 5, wherein,

said rectifying and smoothing means includes a circuit
formed by four rectifying devices connected by bridge

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connection and two smoothing capacitors connected in series with each other such that said four rectifying devices connected by said bridge connection charge a series connection of said two smoothing capacitors with a rectified current obtained by full-wave rectification; and

said switching power supply circuit further includes
switch means inserted to switch on/off between said two smoothing capacitors and a line of an alternating current, and

switch control means for performing control to turn off said switch means when level of said alternating current is a reference value or higher, and turn on said switch means when the level of said alternating current is lower than the reference value.

Claim 9. (Original) A switching power supply circuit as claimed in claim 5, wherein,

said power factor improving primary winding is divided into two parts via a tap, and an end part of one divided part of said power factor improving primary winding is connected to said primary side series resonant capacitor; and

said switching power supply circuit further includes
switching means for performing switching to select an end part of the other divided part of said power factor improving primary winding and a terminal of said tap as a part

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to be connected to an end part of the primary winding of the
isolated converter transformer, and

switching control means for performing control to make
said switching means select the end part of the other divided
part of said power factor improving primary winding when level
of said alternating current is a reference value or higher,
and make said switching means select the terminal of said tap
when the level of said alternating current is lower than the
reference value.